

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 IO-13 /076 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:ECA:FERONDON:LK
APPROVED BY ARA:TATODMAN
ARA:ECA:RWZIMMERMANN(DRAFT)
-----220028Z 126476 /62

R 211257Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117728

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, AR, US

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1. ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN ON MAY 20. ESPIL WAS INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN TODMAN'S IMPRESSIONS OF HIS MEETING IN CARACAS WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA AND WANTED TO ENCOURAGE A TODMAN TRIP TO BUENOS AIRES.

2. ESPIL THANKED TODMAN WARMLY FOR THE FLOWERS WHICH THE EMBASSY SENT IN THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S NAME TO THE ESPIL FAMILY ON THE OCCASION OF THE MARRIAGE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S SON.

3. ASKED ABOUT THE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAID IT WAS VERY FRIENDLY, FRANK AND OPEN. VIDELA MENTIONED HIS BELIEF THAT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON GUZZETTI WAS AN EFFORT TO FORCE CANCELLATION OF
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THE VENEZUELAN VISIT.

4. AMBASSADOR TODMAN EXPRESSED HIS HOPE TO VISIT ARGENTINA IN JULY OR AUGUST. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THERE WOULD BE AS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH ARGENTINE OFFICIALS

AT THE OAS ASSEMBLY IN GRENADA. ESPIL HOPED THAT SECRETARY

VANCE AND AMBASSADOR TODMAN WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND/OR DEPUTY MINISTER ALLARA. (AFTER THE MEETING, ESPIL MENTIONED ALLARA'S DISAPPOINTMENT THAT HE HAD NOT MET WITH TODMAN IN CARACAS. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO MENTION TO ALLARA THAT AMBASSADOR TODMAN IS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING IN GRENADA.)

5. ESPIL WAS VERY INTERESTED IN AMBASSADOR TODMAN'S COMMENTS ON BRAZIL. LATTER NOTED THAT HIS PRESS REMARKS HAD BEEN MIS-REPORTED IN BRAZIL TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UNITED STATES NO LONGER CONSIDERS BRAZIL THE LEADER IN LATIN AMERICA. TODMAN EXPLAINED THAT WE WOULD DEAL WITH EACH AND EVERY STATE ON THE BASIS OF INDIVIDUALITY AND SOVEREIGNTY. THE BRAZILIANS THEMSELVES ACKNOWLEDGED TO TODMAN THAT THEY DID NOT CONSIDER THEIR COUNTRY TO BE THE LATIN AMERICAN LEADER. ESPIL EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE WITH OUR POSITION.

6. QUESTIONED ABOUT CONGRESS, TODMAN STATED THAT HE IS WORRIED ABOUT LEGISLATIVE ACTION AGAINST ARGENTINA. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY HAS THREE BASIC ASPECTS. THE FIRST INVOLVES OUR BELIEF THAT NO INDIVIDUAL SHOULD FEAR THAT HIS OWN GOVERNMENT MIGHT TORTURE OR OTHERWISE MISTREAT HIM. THE SECOND RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO SATISFY BASIC NEEDS SUCH AS FOOD, HOUSING AND EDUCATION. THE THIRD ASPECT DEALS WITH AN INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN CIVIC AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS. AMBASSADOR TODMAN NOTED THAT CONGRESS HAS TENDED TO FOCUS ON THE FIRST POINT AND TO CONFIDENTIAL

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ACT BY PUNITIVE MEASURES. THE ADMINISTRATION, RATHER THAN ADOPTING A SANCTIONS APPROACH, WANTS TO CONCENTRATE ON THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ON SPECIFIC STEPS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO SUCH RIGHTS.

7. ESPIL RAISED THE RECENT RELEASE OF SENATOR SOLARI IRIGOYEN. THIRTY-FOUR AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN PETITIONED FOR THIS RELEASE, AND ESPIL SAID HE NOTIFIED EACH ONE OF THE GOA'S ACTION.

8. ESPIL ALSO REPORTED HIS PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION TO PRESIDENT VIDELA THAT HE ATTEND THE UNGA IN SEPTEMBER.

9. AFTER THE MEETING, AJA ESPIL COMMENTED TO RONDON OF ARA/ECA THAT, IN PART, VIDELA HAD GONE ALONG WITH THE ARREST OF THE LANUSSE JUNTA TO SHOW THE MILITARY THAT THE CIVILIAN COURTS COULD BE EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENTS OF JUSTICE IN ARGENTINA. THIS WOULD MAKE IT EASIER LATER FOR THE

MILITARY TO TURN JUSTICE OVER TO THE CIVILIANS. ESPIL,
WHO JUST RETURNED FROM BUENOS AIRES, ALSO EXPRESSED THE
OPINION THAT VIDELA IS HANDLING HIMSELF ASTUTELY AND WITH
FORESIGHT. HE COUNTED THE VENEZUELA TRIP AS A SIGNIFICANT
PLUS FOR VIDELA. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, OVIP, AR, US, BR, (TODMAN, TERENCE A), (AJA ESPIL, JORGE ANTONIO), (VIDELA, JORGE RAFAEL)
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